

SALT Church

Romans 8:18-21

“Waiting Eagerly”

December 21, 2025

“The Greatest Book Ever Written”

David and Cindy

- There are at least 6 students that need sponsors for this upcoming year (*they will be in the back at the end of the service*)
 - Prayer
 - Their ministry
 - The school (teachers and students)
 - (David’s health)

Recap: (Here is where we finished last week)

Romans 8:16-17

¹⁶ For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.

We asked this question last week

- “Why does sharing in God’s glory mean that we must share in his suffering?”
 - *I reminded you of Acts 14:22*
- Acts 14:22 says “Through many trials and tribulations we will enter the kingdom of God.”
 - Why?

- Here is the answer we came up with last week...
- If there were no trials, no suffering, no pain, no difficulty, we would fall in love with this broken place and our sin.
 - The truth is this:
 - We need pain, suffering, and difficulty to drive us into the arms of our Father!

We pick up where we left off:

Romans 8:18-21

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

- What is Paul talking about? (waiting eagerly for God to reveal...)
- How does this bring relief to the suffering?
- What will this look like?
- Why would creation be eagerly waiting?
- Why was all creation subjected to **God's curse**.
 - (What was the result of God's curse?)
 - (Why would He do that?)

I want to start with last question 1st:

- ***Why was all creation subjected to God's curse.***

Romans 8:20

²⁰ **Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse.**

- What did creation do?
 - Nothing!
 - Let's define creation
 - Creation is everything that has been created.
 - All the planets, stars, and everything on them.
 - On earth we are referring to everything that we would call nature.
 - From the micro to the macro
 - The things we can see to the things we can't see.

Key phrases:

- “**Against its will**” meaning outside of man, creation did nothing that would have motivated God to curse it.
- “**God's curse**” (what does that mean?)
 - Let's look at what the Holy Spirit is referring to:

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ **And to the man he said,**

**“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,
the ground is cursed because of you.**

All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

¹⁸ **It will grow thorns and thistles for you,
though you will eat of its grains.**

¹⁹ **By the sweat of your brow**
will you have food to eat
until you return to the ground
from which you were made.
For you were made from dust,
and to dust you will return.”

The curse is a result of man’s sin!

Mans sin changed everything:

- Think about this.
 - Man was made from the dust of the earth, therefore the curse that man brought upon himself would naturally be imposed upon the earth.
 - Everything we have is a product of this earth with the exception of two things:
 - Our sin
 - Our redemption

What’s your point pastor?

- My point is that God had to judge our sin and the result of our sin and our connection to creation has brought about this curse from God.
 - Therefore all of creation was cursed because of our sin
- **But one day our redemption will be complete and all of creation will be redeemed as well.**

Back to Romans 8:20

Romans 8:20

But with **eager hope**, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

- Can you see the connection between us and creation.
- ***Our redemption, our restoration***, will also mean the redemption and restoration of all creation.
 - This leads me to believe that nature longs to ***not live in fear***.
 - If you have ever watched any of the National Geographic specials, you have witnessed the harsh reality of wild animals and the fight to survive.
 - **There is no peace in it.**
 - Now, imagine a world in which there are no predators.
 - Every animal eats only what the earth provides and not each other.
 - A world in which there is peace and harmony between all animals and nature.
 - A world in which lions and wolf's hangout with lambs and nobody gets hurt.
 - A world in which snakes exist but they do not bite.
 - A world in which swimming with sharks is no more dangerous than swimming with goldfish. (**It's coming!**)

Now, let's look at verses 18-19

Romans 8:18-21

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later.

- Again, I need to remind you that **no one** in Heaven desires to come back to this life and this earth.
- ***All of them would agree*** that Heaven has lived up to the hype.

So far we have discovered that we are not the only one's longing for relief:

19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.

Three questions come to mind:

- What is Paul talking about?
- How does this bring relief to the suffering?
- What will this look like?

What is Paul talking about?

- “There will be a day when ***God reveals who His children really are.***”
 - This event will change everything
 - ***This event will be the “reset” that all creation has been longing for.***
 - This event will lead to what we call the “**Millennial Kingdom**”

- (**Revelation 20**) “Millennial” meaning a thousand years in which Satan and his demons are removed from the earth and ***Jesus rules the entire world.***
 - (side note) Revelation 20 is New Testament prophecy written just over 2,000 years ago
 - This is the return of Christ or the “2nd advent”
 - The 1st “advent” was when Jesus was born (***Christmas***)
 - **But Revelation is not alone in this prophecy**
 - Isaiah has much to say about His 2nd return
 - written almost 3,000 years ago
 - ***Listen to what Isaiah says***

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Pastor, I understand why people would want this but why would creation want this and how would this change creation?

Isaiah 35:1-2 (The deserts will bloom with life)

*The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*

So, the desert will no longer be the desert, it will be watered and will blossom. (Creation will be changed by Jesus' return)

Hosea 2:18 (Harmony with animals, no war)

**In that day I will make a covenant for them
with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky
and the creatures that move along the ground.
Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land,
so that all may lie down in safety. (Real peace!)**

Conflict will no longer be an accepted way of life for man or beast.

Isaiah also speaks of harmony between animals

Isaiah 65:25

**²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food.
They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,"
says the Lord.**

Isaiah continues:

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and **a little child will lead them.**

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Wow!

- This is very difficult to imagine
 - **Back to Romans**

Romans 8:19

¹⁹For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.

How will God reveal who His children really are?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with

the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

Pastor that's crazy talk!

- *Let me remind you God said it*
- *Our responsibility is to have faith in Him and everything He says*

How will this happen?

1 Corinthians 15:51–52

⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

Jesus said it this way when He was on the earth:

John 5:28-29

²⁸ Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, ²⁹ and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

When will this happen? (Jesus explains)

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

³⁷ “When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. ³⁹ People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

⁴⁰ “Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

⁴² “So, you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

This event is known as the rapture (or the taking up) of the church.

- The Greek word that is translated as rapture is **harpazo**
 - It means to suddenly snatch up
 - This will be what happens at **the twinkling of an eye.**

The rapture of the church is followed by an event found in Daniel and Revelation known as the 7 years of tribulation.

- There will be natural disasters
 - Wars and rumors of wars
 - Famine and earthquakes on a global scale
 - It will be like nothing this earth has ever experienced
 - 2/3 of the earth's total population will die just from the natural disasters
 - At the end of those 7 years Jesus says this will happen in Luke 21

Luke 21:25-28

²⁵ “And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. ²⁶ People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”

- Jesus expresses the dismay and awe of these days.
 - Jesus also expresses that people will be saved during these 7 years of tribulation.
 - Jesus says to those who are alive during that time that they should be encouraged because their salvation is near.

Jesus also proclaims that His return will be seen by everyone!

Revelation 1:7

⁷ Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!

Jesus also warns that there will be false messiahs, as people will make claims that Jesus is already here.

Matthew 24:26–31

²⁶ “So if someone tells you, ‘Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,’ don’t bother to go and look. Or, ‘Look, he is hiding here,’ don’t believe it! ²⁷ For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. ²⁸ Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.

²⁹ “Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

³⁰ And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

When will this happen?

1 Thessalonians 5:1–3

5 Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. ² For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. ³ When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

Pastor, that is a lot to take in!

- I agree
- But it is the truth straight from God's Word
 - All of it is prophecy and the purpose of prophecy is encouragement for God's people.
 - Back to Romans 8

Romans 8:18-19

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.
Paul, through the power of the Holy Spirit is going to draw the connection of our suffering and the future promises of God.

- The 1st thing Paul wants us to know is that God knows and understands our suffering.
- The 2nd thing we must understand is that our suffering has purpose and this is part of **the process of sanctification.**

- ***So, no matter the depths of our suffering,*** The Holy Spirit who is speaking through the Apostle Paul says,
 - **I know you are suffering,**
 - **I know it is difficult,**
 - **I know you are ready for it to be over,**
 - ***“Nothing will compare to the glory He will reveal to us later”***
 - You’re not alone! “I will never leave you nor forsake you”
 - I promise it will not compare to Heaven
 - ***I promise your suffering has purpose.***
 - ***I promise this will not last forever.***

Jesus understands pain and suffering.

- **In the pain and suffering that this world brings Jesus says to remember the promises of God.**
 - **Focus on Him**
 - **When the time is right He will personally come and get you.**

John 14:1–3

14 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ²There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, I would not have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you. ³When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

Men, please come as we prepare our hearts for the Lord's supper.

Prayer

Wednesday we will celebrate His birth, the 1st advent.

- Today we celebrate the gospel
- We celebrate the gospel through the taking of communion.
 - In an odd way we celebrate His pain and suffering
 - His broken body
 - His shed blood for us!
- We celebrate His resurrection
 - Proof that His sacrifice for us was accepted by the Father.

Instructions for communion

Transitional prayer